

Dear Friend,

This summer many Long Islanders will be traveling to see friends and family. But as we often find out the hard way – air travel can make getting there costly and difficult. Long delays on the tarmac, canceled flights, difficulty in rerouting a trip and unexpected fees can take a toll on a summer getaway. For too long, consumers have been at a disadvantage when dealing with airlines. That needs to change. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has proposed new rules to make air travel easier and fairer for consumers, including:

- Allowing passengers to make and cancel reservations within 24 hours without penalty
- Requiring fair price advertising
- Prohibiting price increases after a ticket is purchased
- Requiring full and prominently displayed disclosure of baggage fees as well as refunds and expense reimbursement when bags are not delivered on time
- Notifying passengers of flight status changes in a timely manner

Though there is more to be done, these new rules are a good first step in making air travel a little more user-friendly for the summer. Last year I voted for the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Bill, legislation that included provisions to improve passenger wait times and consumer protections. The Senate passed its version of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization in March of this year. As both bills move forward in conference, I will continue to work to protect the rights of airline passengers.

For more information on the DOT's new rule, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress